

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 L-03
SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 /062 W
-----180641Z 049046 /13

R 172209Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3503
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER CANADIAN CONSULS

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR; US-UK BILATERAL QUESTION

REF: OTTAWA 3789

1. MONTREAL GAZETTE MAY 17 FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE STATES
BRITISH AIRWAYS PLANS DIVERT TO MIRABEL AIRPORT 2200
US-BOUND PASSENGERS DAILY ON REGULAR FLIGHTS, IF ITS
U.S. SERVICE SUSPENDED AFTER JUNE 22. ALSO PLANS THREE-
TIMES-A-WEEK CONCORDE FLIGHTS TO MONTREAL WITH 500 MORE
PASSENGERS A WEEK, BA OFFICIAL JOHN DAWE IS QUOTED AS
SAYING. BIG PROBLEMS FACING BA, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE,
ARE BOOKING LANDING TIMES AT MIRABEL AND FINDING
CONNECTIONS TO/FROM U.S. UNIDENTIFIED AIR CANADA
OFFICIAL QUOTED AS SAYING IT HAS NOT YET MADE A COMMIT-
MENT BUT IS WILLING TO HELP WITH CONNECTION PROBLEMS.
LIKewise, AN UNNAMED OFFICIAL IN TRANSPORT MINISTER
LANG'S OFFICE IS QUOTED TO EFFECT THAT THERE ARE TALKS
GOING ON AT THE MOMENT ON THIS QUESTION.

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2. MOT WORKING-LEVEL AVIATION OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN
RECENT MEETINGS WITH U.K. GROUP TOLD TCO MAY 17 GAZETTE
ARTICLE APPEARS REFLECT THOSE DISCUSSIONS, BUT HAS
SEVERAL FACTUAL ERRORS: (A) THE 2200 PASSENGER ESTIMATE
IS HIGH, (B) CONCORDE HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED, AND
(C) THERE IS NO LANDING TIMES PROBLEM AT MIRABBL. AT
DORVAL, HOWEVER, THERE IS SIGNIFICANT CONGESTION AT

CERTAIN HOURS AND EXTRA FREQUENCIES AT MIRABEL WOULD HAVE TO BE SCHEDULED TO MINIMIZE CONNECTION PROBLEMS AT DORVAL.

3. BRITISH GROUP WAS TOLD, ACCORDING TO THIS OFFICIAL, GOC WOULD NOT GRANT U.K. ANY TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL RIGHTS AT NEW POINTS. FURTHERMORE, CONGESTION PROBLEM AT TORONTO (MALTON) IS SO GREAT IT IS DOUBTFUL EXTRA SECTIONS COULD BE ACCOMMODATED THERE. HE ALSO CONFIRMED OUR EARLIER VIEW THAT BASICALLY AN INCREASE IN TRAFFIC THROUGH CANADA CAN BE WORKED OUT DIRECTLY BETWEEN BA AND AIR CANADA THROUGH THEIR POOL AGREEMENT. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ONLY HAVE TO BE INVOLVED IF INCREASED OPERATIONS AT DORVAL WERE NECESSARY. AIR CANADA, HE SAID, THINKS IT CAN ACCOMMODATE MANY BA PASSENGERS ON TRANSBORDER FLIGHTS NOW SCHEDULED AND FEELS THE U.S. CARRIERS ALREADY OPERATING COULD ALSO TAKE A SHARE WITHOUT HAVING TO INCREASE FREQUENCIES OR SECTIONS. THE U.K. IS EXPECTED TO MAKE SOME TECHNICAL PROPOSALS ON DORVAL TO MOT IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN CASE IT IS NECESSARY TO USE MONTREAL FOR MAINTAINING A U.S. SERVICE. ENDERS

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